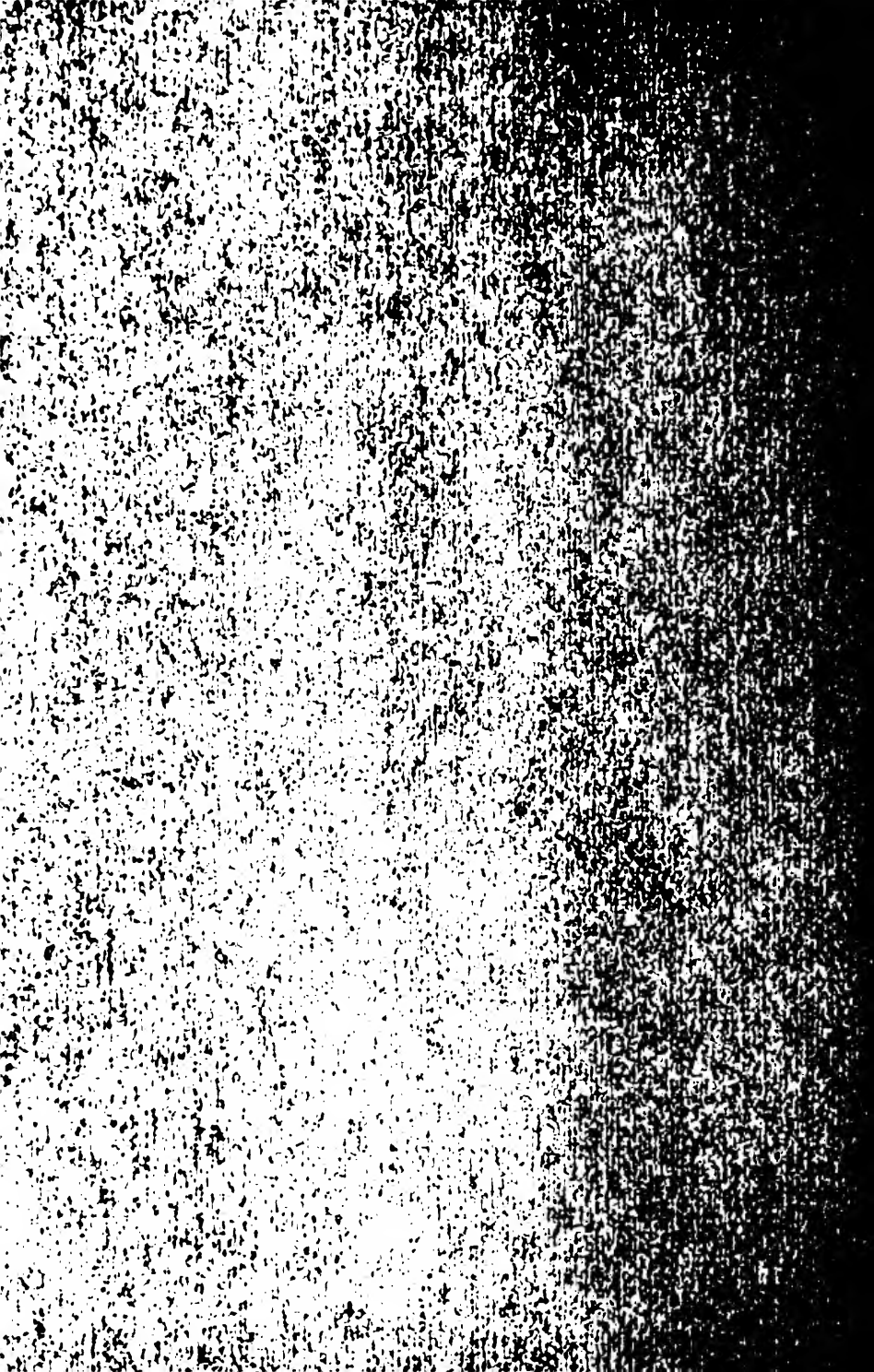


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London, 18, Aldermanbury, Jan. 31, 1827.

No. 20.

ANTI-SLAVERY MONTHLY REPORTER.

H. O. Ashmun

The "ANTI-SLAVERY MONTHLY REPORTER" will be ready for delivery on the first day of every month. Copies will be forwarded, at the request of any Anti-Slavery Society, at the rate of four shillings per hundred, when not exceeding half a sheet, and in proportion, when it exceeds that quantity. All persons wishing to receive a regular supply, are requested to make application to the Secretary, at the Society's office, No. 18, Aldermanbury, and mention the conveyance by which they may be most conveniently sent.

SLAVERY AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

IN the course of the last year an ordinance was promulgated in this colony, similar in its principle and provisions to that which has been established in Trinidad, for regulating the future treatment of slaves. It has generally been supposed in this country, that at the Cape of Good Hope the condition of the slaves was so mild as to call for no such interference on the part of Government. But it might have been assumed with certainty, that the accounts which led to such a conclusion were founded either in gross ignorance or in wilful misrepresentation. Slavery is an institution which, wherever it exists, must produce misery and degradation to all concerned in it; to the master as well as to the slave. Its effect in our West India colonies we are already familiar with. We shall hereafter be called to witness its still more horrid and revolting results as they are exhibited in the Mauritius. At present we confine ourselves to the Cape of Good Hope. Of the state of slavery in that colony, as it existed down to the month of January last, we are enabled to put our readers in possession of some authentic details which have been furnished by a colonist now in this country, on whose information we place implicit reliance. These details first appeared in the New Monthly Magazine for November last: we have satisfied ourselves of their truth, and we give them with confidence to our readers.

"Cape of Good Hope, Jan. 5, 1826.

"The mildness of Slavery at the Cape has been much dwelt upon by certain travellers, whose opinions on this subject, being re-echoed by the Quarterly Review and similar publications, seem to be generally admitted in England as perfectly just and incontrovertible. I am now satisfied, however, that the term, except in a very restricted sense, is altogether inapplicable. The general condition of slaves in this colony, compared with some others, (such, for example, as the Isle of France,) may, indeed, be correctly described as less deplorable: but with all its boasted alleviations, and in spite of every sweetening ingredient, slavery at the Cape is assuredly still a bitter and baleful draught.

"Should the comparative mildness of Cape slavery, however, be admitted, what a powerful argument does not this admission make for the

speedy annihilation of human bondage throughout their colonies, by the powers of Christian Europe? If slaves are such wretched beings as I shall soon prove them to be, even at the Cape, what must be their condition in other colonies? What must be the condition of their masters?

"The slaves of this settlement can claim no respite from their masters' service, except on Sunday; and, as regards the household slaves, only partially on that day. They cannot legally marry, or legitimate their offspring, without the concurrence of their owner—a concurrence which his interests or his prejudices induce him, in almost every instance, to refuse. They cannot claim their freedom on presenting their purchase-money. They are frequently sold by public auction on the death or bankruptcy of their owners; and they are liable at all times, from casualty or from caprice, to be irretrievably separated from their wives, children, and dearest connections. At public sales the distressing spectacle of the wife torn from the husband, and the children from the parents, is so familiar as scarcely to interest the feelings of the spectators. Coarse jocular and indecent merriment seldom fail, on such occasions, to be rudely bandied between the auctioneers and the rival bidders. Moreover, the slave is liable to be flogged whenever his owner's arrogant caprice may require it; and should he suffer ill-treatment from his master or the magistrate, he possesses in the laws (at least as they are usually administered) no security for obtaining redress.

"Yet the slave-holders in this colony continually exclaim—'Our slaves are as well fed and clothed as your English peasantry—ininitely better than your wretched Irish: in what respect, then, can they be considered objects of commiseration?' If such assertions were undeniable, the deduction drawn from them is not, on that account, the less fallacious. A few facts will show the futility of such arguments.

"In August, 1825, I was walking with a friend in the streets of Graaff-Reinett (a country town about five hundred miles from the capital), when we were accosted, in pretty good English, by a man of the Malay complexion. My companion, whom he addressed by name, asked how he came to know him. The man replied, that he had occasionally seen him at the house of his former master in Cape Town. On farther inquiry, he told us the following distressing story:—

"He was a slave, and had a wife and several children also in slavery. Being an expert waggon-driver, his master was offered a high price for him by a person from Graaff-Reinett. The offer was accepted, but the agreement concealed from the object of it. He was ordered to proceed with the waggon of his new purchaser into the interior, but given to understand that it was on his old master's business, and that he should return in a few months. On arriving at Graaff-Reinett, however, he was made acquainted with the transaction, and then found that he was for ever separated from all he cherished on earth. Even some little property in money and clothes, which he had hoarded and left behind him, he had never been able to recover, although two or three years had elapsed, and he had made repeated applications for it. The poor man appeared extremely dejected, and his melancholy tale was afterwards fully confirmed to me by other authority.

"Another recent illustration I shall extract from the letter of a friend

—a gentleman in the civil service of the East India Company, who recently spent some years at the Cape.

“While I was residing in the vicinity of Algoa Bay, there came to the house, late at night, an old slave woman, who had fled from the ill usage of her mistress. She bore on her body marks of previous ill-treatment, having had three of her ribs broken at an earlier period of life, when she was in the possession of a former master. She was then in the family of an English resident, who had married a Dutch woman, and had been some years settled at —, within a few miles of Algoa Bay. Her dress was a filthy untanned sheep-skin petticoat, with a few old rags about her head, and a dirty sheep-skin thrown over her shoulders. She had absconded from her master's house the preceding night; and after concealing herself in the day-time, had made her way, the night following, to the house where we resided.

“The next morning, the son of the owner came to drive back the old woman before him. When I proposed to purchase from him the freedom of the slave, and stated her advanced age, he said that the work the old creature did was very considerable; and instanced her bringing daily to the house as much fire wood on her back as any man could carry; adding, that, though he was willing to let the unhappy wretch have rest in her latter years, he could not part with her services under five hundred rix dollars. Ultimately, however, he agreed to reduce her price to four hundred.’

“The poor creature, thus emancipated, by the generosity of a stranger, now enjoys liberty and repose at the Missionary Institution of Bethelsdorp; but how seldom, among innumerable cases of equal hardship, can it happen that a solitary individual is thus relieved?

“Examples, such as these, of the wretchedness of slavery at the Cape, might be adduced without end, for they are of familiar and everyday occurrence. But since the authority of distinguished writers is so often brought forward to prove that in South Africa slavery is little more than a name, let us now produce the evidence of a celebrated traveller on the subject. Dr. Sparrman, a man not less distinguished for his candour and integrity than for his eminence in science, and who, from the familiar footing on which his simple manners and mode of travelling placed him with every class of the inhabitants, was well qualified to form a correct judgment on this point, has given a very different picture of South African slavery from certain recent writers, who, in their slight and soothing descriptions of it, have either intentionally flattered the slave-holders, or their opportunities of observation had never extended beyond the well-dressed and pampered domestic slaves of Cape Town. Sparrman, on mentioning the murder of a planter in the interior by two of his slaves, makes the following just remarks:—

“Yet whatever might be the real reason for committing this dreadful crime, I am convinced that it had its origin in the very essence and nature of the Slave Trade, in whatever manner and in whatever country it may be practised; a motive which I found had as much influence among the Christians, in many places, as among the Turks on the coast of Barbary, to induce the unhappy slaves, and still more their tyrannical masters, to behave very strangely; nay, sometimes to be guilty of the most horrid cruelties. I have known some colonists, not only in the heat of their passion, but even deliberately and in cold blood, undertake themselves the low office (fit only for the executioner,) of not only flaying, for a trifling neglect, both the backs and limbs of their slaves by a peculiar slow lingering method, but likewise, outdoing the very tigers in cruelty, throw pepper and salt over the wounds. But what appeared to me more strange and horrid, was to hear a colonist, not only describe with great seeming satisfaction the whole process of this diabolical invention, but even pride himself on the practice of it; and rack his brains, in order to find sophisms in defence of it, as well as of the Slave Trade; in which occupation the important post he enjoyed in the colony, and his own interest, had engaged him. He was, however, a European by birth; of a free and civilized nation; and, indeed, gave evident proofs of possessing a kind and tender heart; so that, perhaps, it would be difficult to show any where a greater contradiction in the disposition of man, though in a world composed almost entirely of contradictions.’

“Strange and horrid as this anomaly of character appeared to the worthy Sparrman, it is to this day as common as ever among slave-holders,—who, though in other respects humane and good-natured, become, by long practice, altogether callous and cruel-hearted in punish-

ing their slaves. I have myself witnessed many striking instances of this. I have even known ladies, born and educated in England, charitable and benevolent in their general character, yet capable of standing over their female slaves while they were flogged, and afterwards ordering salt and pepper to be rubbed into their lacerated flesh! It is slavery, corrupting, hardening, brutalizing slavery, that produces this deplorable change in human feelings; and while it degrades to the dust the wretched victim of oppression, vitiates, by a terrible re-action, the heart and character of the oppressor.—‘Never be kind, nor speak kindly to a slave,’ said another English lady at the Cape, to a female relative of mine; ‘I have found,’ added she, ‘by experience in my own household, that nothing but hauteur and harshness will do with slaves.’

“There is a law, indeed, says Sparrman) existing in the colony, which prohibits masters from killing their slaves, or from flogging or otherwise chastising them with too great severity; but how is a slave to go to law with his master, who is, as it were, his sovereign, and who, by the same laws, has a right, or at least may, by dint of bribes, purchase that right, to have him flogged at the public whipping post, not absolutely to death, indeed, yet not far from it; and this merely in the strength of the master’s own testimony, and without any farther inquisition into the merits of the case? The master has, besides, so far his slave’s life in his hands, that by rating and abusing him day by day, as likewise by proper ‘domestic discipline,’ as it is called, such as heavy iron chains, hard work, and little meat, he may, without controul, by little and little, though soon enough for his purpose, worry the poor fellow out of his life. In consequence of this, the unhappy slaves, who are frequently endued with finer feelings and nobler sentiments of humanity, though for the most part actuated by stronger passions than their masters, often give themselves up totally to despondency, and commit various acts of desperation and violence. Inversely circumstances and considerations may, perhaps, concur to induce a wretch in this situation to exempt his tyrant from the dagger which he plunges in his own bosom, content with being thus able to put an end to his own misery, and at the same time to disappoint his greedy master of the profits arising from the sweat of his brow. A female slave, who had been just bought at a high price, and rather prematurely treated with severity by her mistress, who lived in the Rondebosch district, hanged herself the same night out of revenge and despair, just at the entrance of her new mistress’s bed-chamber. A young man and woman who were slaves at the Cape, and were passionately fond of each other, solicited their master, in conformity with the established custom, for his consent to their being united in wedlock, though all in vain, as from some whim or caprice he was infused absolutely to forbid it. The consequence was, that the lover was seized with a singular fit of despair; and having first plunged a dagger into the heart of the object of his dearest wishes, immediately afterwards put an end to his own life. But how many hundred instances, not less dreadful than these, might be produced to this purpose.”

“How indeed can it be wondered at, that hatred and revenge on the part of the slave, and suspicion and dislike on the part of the master, should be so generally the result of this unnatural relationship. And amidst the continual effervescence of such feelings, is it surprising that instances of masters flogging their slaves to death, of shooting them in a passion, or cases of still more cool-blooded and revolting atrocity, should occasionally occur? Or is it surprising, on the other hand, that desperate risings of the slaves to murder their masters, and their far more frequent attempts to destroy them secretly by poison, should be equally familiar at the Cape as in other slave colonies?

“That such occurrences are sufficiently frequent and familiar at the Cape, no one who has lived a few years in the colony will deny. It will be sufficient to refer merely to a few recent examples. In 1822, Mr. Gebhardt, the son of a country clergyman, was executed for flogging to death one of his father’s slaves. At that time there were five cases of slave murder before the deputy fiscal, all of a more aggravated character than that of this unfortunate young man, though he alone was

punished capitally. A far more atrocious case occurred a few years previously (though from some cause or other not brought to capital conviction) of a monster, who actually roasted one of his slaves alive in an oven. In 1824, a young man of my own acquaintance shot one of his slaves in a passion, and was for this crime condemned by the court of circuit to one year's imprisonment.

"In October 1824, two attempts of slaves to poison their mistresses occurred within my own circle of acquaintance. In the same year occurred the desperate outrage of a few slaves and Hottentots in the Bokkeveld, who being cruelly treated by their masters, and summarily flogged by the local magistracy, whenever they went to claim redress, at length rose with arms in their hands, and destroyed two or three of the colonists; for which crime several of them were hanged, and others condemned to work in irons for life. In the same year, or in the close of 1823, a slave woman, in the district of Graaff-Reinett was convicted of having murdered her own child, in order to revenge herself upon her mistress, by whom she had been harshly used. I am not aware whether or not this unhappy wretch was executed, but I read the evidence on her trial at the time in the hands of the Deputy Landdrost Fiscal.

"The following case occurred in 1822. The daughter of a wealthy burgher, residing in Graaff-Reinett, was suspected of having murdered her illegitimate child, in order to conceal her disgrace. The Landdrost, Captain Stockenstrom, (an active and impartial magistrate), after due investigation of the facts, apprehended the girl, together with one of the female slaves of the colony, and an old Hottentot woman who assisted at the accouchement. The prisoners were finally transmitted to Cape Town to be prosecuted by the Fiscal before the Court of Justice. It appeared from the evidence elicited on the trial, that the mother had either strangled the infant herself, or forced the slave by threats to do so; and that the slave had afterwards carried away and concealed the body. The court condemned the mother of the infant and the slave to capital punishment for the murder, and the Hottentot woman to twelve months imprisonment.

"From this sentence, the friends of the white woman appealed; and the governor, as judge of the Court of Appeals, reversed the sentence in her favour. She was consequently liberated; re-appeared among her acquaintance, as if nothing had occurred, and in a few months was married.

"But what became of the unhappy slave woman, who had been the accomplice of her young mistress in the crime? Who appealed in her behalf? Who implored mercy for her? Not her master: he endeavoured to impute to her all the guilt, and willingly surrendered her life as a ransom for that of his daughter. Not the members of the Court of Justice: they had, as they deemed, duly performed their functions, and would not interfere beyond them. Not the Court of Appeals: it had saved the free woman; it cared not for the slave. Not the public: there is no public voice heard at the Cape.

"The poor slave remained in jail; and was about to be sacrificed alone for a crime, in which (if she assisted at all) it was evident she was not the principal, but merely the blind accomplice of her mistress.

whether from obsequious attachment or from servile fear. At this crisis, a friend of humanity—a casual visitor from India, heard of her pitiful case with interest and indignation. He visited her in prison, drew up a strong statement on the subject, and laid it before the governor. The governor, though he had previously passed it over unnoticed, was now moved; and the poor creature was saved.

"I have stated that mothers and children are often separated by being sold to different purchasers at the public sales. Examples of this are of daily occurrence; but one or two will sufficiently illustrate this part of the subject.

"Advertisement extracted from the Cape Gazette of Oct. 12th, 1822:—

"To be sold by auction, on the 15th instants, by order of the board of Captain Masters, in such condition as will then be specified, the buildings on the Loan Place, at Knaal, at Berg River, district of Stellenbosch.

"There will also be sold a female slave, named Condasa, of Mozambique, fifty four years old, with her five children, Saphira, aged thirteen years, Eva, ten, Candasa, nine, Jaanette, seven, and Carlo, five, each to be put up separately."

"The following account of a scene of this kind, is extracted from the letter of a friend of the writer, while travelling in the interior of the Colony:—

"Having learned that there was to be a sale of cattle, facstaffs, &c. by auction, at a Veed Cornet's in the vicinity, we hired our waggon and tray for the purpose of procuring a fresh specimen. Among the stock of the farmer sold, was a female slave and her three children. The two eldest children were girls, the one about thirteen years of age, and the other about eleven; the youngest was a boy. The wretched family were exhibited together, but they were sold separately, and to different purchasers. The farmers exclaimed that this was the first time they had seen so many heads of cattle. While the sale was going on, the mother and her children were exhibited on a table, that they might be seen by the company, which was very large. There could not have been a finer subject for an able painter, than this unhappy group. The tears, the anxiety, the anguish of the mother, while she met the gaze of the multitude, eyed the different countenances of the bidders, or cast a heart-rending look upon the children; and the simplicity and touching sorrow of the poor young ones, while they clung to their distracted parent, wiping their eyes, and half concealing their faces, contrasted with the increased insensibility and vulgar countenances of the spectators and purchasers,—furnished a striking commentary on the miseries of slavery, and its debasing effects upon the hearts of its abettors. While the woman was in this distressed situation, she was asked 'Can you feed sheep?' Her reply was so indistinct that it escaped me; but it was probably in the negative, for her purchaser replied in a loud and harsh voice, 'Then I will teach you with the staff!' The mother and her three children were sold to three separate purchasers, and they were literally torn from each other. How just the remark of Cowper,—

'There is no flesh in man's obdurate heart—
It does not feel for man!'

"The following notices of cases between masters and slaves, are extracted from the Annual Lists of trials before the Court of Justice, and its Commissioners, inserted in the Cape Gazette; and are only a small selection out of a multitude of such cases, in Cape Town and its vicinity, between the years 1817 and 1822. Brief as these notices are, they may suffice, without any comment, to exhibit, in a distinct light, the degraded condition of men in slavery, (even in its mildest state,) and the striking inequality of the Colonial laws and Courts of Justice, as they practically affect them and their masters:—

"*Masters v. Slaves.*"

"Jacobus M. v. the slave J. W. Servyntyn, for threatening the life of his master, and making resistance against the Veed Cornet, condemned to be whipped at public view made fast by a rope under the gallows thereupon to be hanged, branded, and confined in Robben Island for six months."

"*Slaves v. Masters.*"

"Johannes J. Senders, for the cruel treatment of a slave, who was said to have died in consequence, condemned to six months imprisonment. "Jansen European servant of J. R. Louw, on a charge of ill-treatment preferred against him by Dierdrik and Joseph, slaves of said Louw, condemned in a penalty of fifty rixdollars."

"Masters v. Slaves."

"David, of Mozambique, slave of A. Laub-scher, for an armed and violent attack upon his master: condemned to be hanged; which sentence received the sanction of the governor: Remitted, and returned to said master, with information to prisoner, on his release, that it is to his master's kind interference he owes his life, as the law certainly demanded the forfeit of it.

["N. B. Had the slave been hanged, it would have been a loss to his master of about 200l.]

"Louis, slave of D. Hugo, for wilfully wounding his master: condemned to be hanged. Sentence remitted by the acting governor.

"April, slave of A. de Villiers, on a charge of murder: condemned to be hanged at the village of Stellenbosch, and his head and right hand to be cut off, and exposed to public view on a pole.

"Hendrik, slave of P. S. Tesselaar, on a charge of grossly ill-treating his wife, in consequence of which she was delivered of a dead child: condemned to be exposed to public view, with a rope round his neck, under the gallows: then scourged and branded; and afterwards to labour in irons, without wages, on the public works at Robben Island for life.

"Jasmyn, slave of Dirk Cloete, on a charge of preferring a false complaint against the Landrost of Stellenbosch, to His Majesty's Fiscal; condemned to be severely flogged.

"Asia, slave of Isaac Coetzee, for having brought forward a false charge against his mistress for ill-treatment of the female slave Diana, which was alleged to be the cause of her death: condemned to be severely flogged.

"Saptoe, (a convict slave,) on a charge of secretly entering a house, with the presumed intention of stealing; prisoner condemned to be flogged, branded, and confined to labour ten years in irons.

"Such are a few—a very few specimens of the outrages continually recurring on the part either of the oppressor or the oppressed, in a country where slavery is said to assume its mildest aspect. Yet, wretched as is this state of reciprocal enmity and suspicion, still more deplorable, if possible, is the dreadfully demoralizing influence of slavery upon the young, alike of the free and the enthralled population. Marriage and baptism, systematically discouraged by the masters in general, are rare among the slaves. Promiscuous intercourse is common. Illicit connections with the white men are encouraged among the young female slaves—frequently even prescribed by their 'Christian' owners. In Cape Town it is notorious as noon-day, that the rearing and educating of handsome female slaves, as objects of licentious traffic with the European, and especially with the rich Indian residents, is extensively practised among slave-holders. If such transactions are now managed with some greater regard to outward decorum than formerly, they are not on that account the less frequent; and I feel no hesitation in asserting, in the face of the authoritative dicta of the 'Quarterly Review,' that the practice of this disgraceful traffic is still common in the colony."

"Slaves v. Masters."

(3l. 15s.) on behalf of the poor's box at the Pwari.

"C. A. Marais, on a charge of ill-treatment, preferred against him by his female slave Kautje: defendant sentenced in a penalty of twenty-five rixdollars, and severely reprimanded.

"A. P. Zeeman and his wife, on a charge of serious ill-treatment, preferred against them by their female slave Theresa: by sentence said slave to be judicially sold, and never to come again into possession of defendants or their relatives.

"O. C. Mostert, for cruel treatment of a female slave, in consequence of which she died: condemned to be banished from this colony and its dependencies for twenty five years.

"P. J. de Villiers, on a charge of ill-treatment of his slave April: condemned to a confinement of three months in the prison of Stellenbosch. Which sentence, however, his Excellency the Governor commuted to a pecuniary fine.

"P. S. Bosman, on a charge of ill-treatment, preferred against him by his slave July. The complaint having been proved groundless, the plaintiff condemned to be flogged. [This case exhibits the most usual result of complaints by slaves against their masters.]

"D. Malang, on a charge of excessive ill-treatment of one of his slaves, of which his death was the consequence, Defendant acquitted of said charge, and the plaintiff, Adam, condemned to be flogged.

"Johannes Tobias Laubscher, on a charge of ill-treatment preferred against him by his slaves Stephen, Marthinus, and Solon: the first and second plaintiffs sentenced to receive each thirty lashes, and the confinement suffered by the third deemed an adequate punishment. The defendant was also sentenced, for reasons moving the Court, in a penalty of thirty rixdollars, (1l. 10s.)

* "A writer in that Journal, in reviewing a little volume, entitled 'Notes on the Cape of Good Hope,' in 1821, endeavours to discredit the author's report of the state of morals, and the anecdotes he has given to illustrate the influence of slavery in destroying female delicacy. *Times*."

"While the female slaves are thus bred up to prostitution, the reaction of their depravity upon the morals of the white population is equally obvious and frightful. Brought up from infancy in collision with a brutalized race of beings, from whom all enjoyments but those of the senses are debarred, what can the youth of either sex learn earliest but the knowledge of evil--the language and the lessons of licentiousness? Who that has resided at the Cape can be ignorant of the general and premature profligacy of manners among the young men? Who, indeed, but must be sensible that the ruling classes in every slave colony, are (and must necessarily be) depraved to an appalling extent by the early and uncontrolled indulgence of almost all the worst propensities of our nature?—by sensuality, unfeeling selfishness,* arrogance, rage, revenge? If the African colonists, as a body, are, notwithstanding all this, less corrupted than the mass of slave-holders in some other countries, they owe it chiefly to the comparatively limited extent of their slave population, and to the early marriages, and simpler and purer manners, of the majority of the country inhabitants. I wish not to speak of them harshly. There are, I am well convinced, a great number of pious, humane, and truly worthy people at the Cape, to whom the above observations do not in any respect apply. I am also convinced, that, in spite of all their defects and disadvantages, the Cape Dutch, regarded as a body of men, possess many estimable qualities. If they have acquired many of an opposite description, it is because they have been so long doubly debased by the curse of slavery, and the deprivation of a good constitution of government. Let England remove that unspeakable curse, and govern them as she should do,—and *then* I will venture to say with confidence of my fellow Colonists, that there is no moral or intellectual excellence, of which they will not speedily be found capable."

however, that that author was correct both in his opinions and facts on this point, though I differ from him entirely in his estimate of the comparative happiness of the slave population.

"* The influence of slavery, in hardening the feelings, and in destroying even the most powerful of our natural affections, is almost incredible. Such facts as masters selling their own children by slave women, are at the Cape far from infrequent. I shall mention only one which occurred a few months ago. The wife of an extensive farmer (a person mentioned by Latrobe, and who resides about one hundred miles from Cape Town,) died in 1825, when, in conformity with the Dutch law of succession, the conjugal property was brought to a public sale, in order that the children might receive their respective shares. The old woman had exacted a promise from her husband on her death bed, that he would emancipate certain slave-children in the household, and not allow them to be sold, because they were known to be the children of one of their own sons, who was now settled on a neighbouring estate. The old man, desirous to keep his promise, was resolutely opposed (incredible as it may seem) by his son, the very father of the children in question. The motive for this opposition to the dictates of nature—to his mother's dying request—and his father's solemn promise—was sordid avarice. If the children were not sold, he would lose his share of their price—the price of his own flesh and blood. He insisted that they should be produced at the public sale. The law was on his side, and his father could not refuse his demand. But the old man's regard to his last promise to his deceased wife, and his indignation at his son's inhuman conduct, induced him to stand up at the sale, and after mentioning the above details to the whole assembly, to declare his determination to re-purchase the children himself at whatever price, and to grant them their freedom, as he had pledged himself to do. The old man's conduct was approved of, and no one offered to compete with him in bidding for the children; yet the relator of this anecdote, who was present on the occasion, heard neither surprise nor indignation expressed at the conduct of the son, nor any censure passed upon him, with the exception of a remark made by a Moravian missionary."

"* We are obliged to defer our promised remarks on the population of our Colonies on account of the want of some necessary returns.

